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STATE LIBRARY

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THINKING THROUGH

"I PREFER workers who read books—the best written on human problems as well as on the technique of their jobs. A vigorous mental life usually means physical health, happiness and efficiency generally. The world is big. Its problems are difficult. No one can be asleep mentally and do his part."

Melvin Traylor

PWA PROJECTS

Several libraries sought to borrow funds from the Federal Emergency Administration of Public Works for the erection of new buildings or for additions to their present ones. According to the plans as released by the Washington office, the Administration, if conditions were met, would loan seventy per cent of the amount needed, granting the thirty per cent remaining as an outright gift.

The government required adequate security for loans made. Such securities as offered by Illinois libraries had to be in accordance with the statutes of the state.

According to the laws of Illinois, the money could be secured in three ways: by bonds, by special tax, and by mortgage.

A special tax must be approved by the municipal board, but a referendum vote is unnecessary. The tax could not exceed more than one and two-thirds mills on the dollar, and the cost of the building is spread equally over a number of years, not exceeding twenty.

In the case of a bond issue a referendum election is required. The bonds must be retired in twenty years, bearing interest of not more than five per cent. Only those municipalities which have not reached the maximum bonded indebtedness may vote such bonds.

Silvis. A small vote defeated the proposition of a bond issue of $12,000 for the library building. The PWA had approved a request for an outright grant of approximately $4,500 and a loan of $12,000 if the bond issue were passed. The increased taxes would have been only ten cents on the $100 valuation, and no taxes would have been due until 1936.

The library is housed in the city hall and has outgrown its present room. After the defeat of the bond issue, the board asked for and obtained labor under CWA to remodel the basement of the city hall for new library quarters.

CWA funds were also obtained for the employment of a librarian to classify and catalog the book collection.

East Moline. The application of the library board for a grant of $5,000 and a loan of $9,000 for the erection of a new building, although approved by the state board of the PWA, was denied by the Washington office. The board had offered a trust deed to the building as a mortgage for the funds, but the PWA asked for a bond issue to guarantee the money. The board was loath to call an election even though the bonded indebtedness of East Moline was small, because of judgments against the city of $70,000.

Inasmuch as the library has on hand about $7,000, the board decided to use this money for an addition to the present building, in an effort to relieve the greatly crowded condition. Mayor Carpentier, in view of the condition of municipal finances, is opposing the plan, even though the money has been accumulated by the board from their regular annual appropriations. He wishes to use the money to meet delinquent special assessment bonds of the city.

Glen Ellyn. The library board petitioned the PWA for funds to erect an addition to the present building, with a mortgage on the building as security. Mr. E. H. Foley, Jr., assistant general counsel, Federal Emergency Administration of Public Works, had stated in a letter the early part of November that the Administration would consider taking a mortgage on the building, providing that Illinois statutes would permit. When the government questioned if a building could be mortgaged to raise funds for an addition, the attorney general's office of the state released the opinion that an addition of the size proposed would be construed as a building, and that the Illinois statute grants the library board the power necessary to mortgage its building to raise the necessary funds. The PWA, however, refused the application of Glen Ellyn.

Cairo. The question of a possible addition to the library building was presented to the Cairo city council by President Green of the Board of trustees of the public library. The addition, at an estimated cost of $30,000, would relieve the present crowded condition and provide adequate reading room and shelving space.

Cicero. The Cicero town board passed a resolution approving plans for the erection of a $125,000 library building if a PWA grant could be obtained. Several organizations, however, protested to the board, arguing that the amount of increased taxes would be too large. The need for a building is great, and the amount saved in rental would be an appreciable sum. The library has always operated on less than the maximum tax rate, the levy being only half a mill the past few years.

Maywood. A bond issue for $50,000 is to be submitted to the voters of Maywood, and, if passed, will permit the grant of $300,000 PWA funds. Included in the proposed improvements is the enlargement of the reading rooms in the public library.

CWA PROJECTS

In Illinois the Civil Works Administration made possible the renovation of a number of library buildings. Labor was provided by the CWA and usually half of the cost of the materials, the library furnishing the other half. Additions were built, rooms remodeled, and buildings repaired and painted. In several instances the hope of the library for a separate children's room was realized.

Trained librarians obtained positions under the Civil Works Service. The principal type of position filled was that of readers' adviser, cataloger and indexer.

A plan for a survey of the resources of the libraries in the state, set up by the Library Extension Division, was filed in December. Under this project, employing thirty librarians and ten clerical assistants, and supervised by the Library Extension Division, every library, except Chicago, would be visited. The librarian would investigate and record information about the library building, its records, book collection and circulation, and would gather information about the library staff and trustees.

Abingdon. The appearance of the John Mosser library was greatly improved by the removal of clinging vines from the front of the building. The joints between the stones were pointed, and the stone work soiled by the vines and smoke cleaned with wire brushes.

Antioch. The allocation of labor for two weeks by the local relief agency permitted the redecoration of the library.

Arlington Heights. The municipal building in which the library is housed, was redecorated by painters working under CWA.

Aurora. The upper floor of the library was remodeled and the main floor decorated as a project for CWA workers. The floors were re-varnished, the walls cleaned and the shelves repainted. The reshelving of the books was also a part of the project.

Barrington. The construction of a new entrance in the southwest side of the library, the building of new book shelves and the painting of the shelves and walls constituted the major part of work accomplished under CWA.

CWS provided several women for mending and cleaning the books.

Batavia. Improvements to the library building under CWA project included a new roof, installation of gutters, dismantling of four chimneys and the removal of two porches, concreting and whitewashing the basement, and the building of several partitions. In addition, the interior was redecorated.

An open house was held at the conclusion of the work in order that the residents might inspect the renovated building. The building was a residence which had been remodeled to serve as a library.

Bellwood. A much needed addition to the village hall was built by CWA workers. The second floor will provide additional space for the library.

Bradford. CWA workers removed all the plastering from the walls and ceiling preparatory to replastering the building. Due to lack of funds, the project was not completed before March 31, the termination of CWA.

Centralia. The city and the library board submitted a project for the improvement of the library to the CWA. The petition calls for painting of the interior and exterior woodwork and the building of new shelving. The board also requested improvements of the grounds, the planting of trees, resurfacing the present driveway, and the addition of guard rails for parking.

Champaign. A roof of slate was relaid on the public library at a total expense of $1,081.74, of which $215.95 was furnished by the library for materials.

The assistance of two women for a period of fifteen days was assigned to the library by the Illinois Emergency Relief Commission. They are to clean the books and the library.

Charleston. $1,358 was allocated to the library for redecorating and repairing the building. The roof was relaid with tar paper, and the outside window casings painted. The basement walls and ceiling were also painted.

Chicago. Forty persons were employed at the library under the plan of work relief, and twenty-eight persons worked on four CWS projects. The latter included the compilation of a residence index of registered borrowers, the rebinding and mending of books by six experienced bindery assistants, and the compilation of union lists of material in the principal libraries of the Chicago area. Other approved projects, for which as yet no one has qualified, are the revision and editing of portrait index notes, and the organization of similar indexes to reference material.

Inventories have been taken by ten men. Thirty men have been employed as guards in the branches. They have also helped in making minor repairs to the buildings and equipment, making shelves, and bulletin boards.

Two artists are working on murals for the Hild and Legler regional branches, and a portrait is being painted of Carl B. Roden, librarian, as the contribution of the Public Works of Art division.

Chicago Heights. Men working under CWA constructed a new floor in the main reading room of the library. The walls and all fixtures were cleaned.

Danville. An application for redecoration of the Danville library was refused by the state CWA. The inability of the library to take care of the cost of the materials was a major cause in the rejection of its project.

Decatur. Construction of an addition to the stackroom of the public library was undertaken as a Civil Works project at a cost of approximately $20,000. Of this amount the library board provided approximately $8,500 for materials, obtaining the money by placing a mortgage upon the library building, through a local firm.

The new space is to be used partly as a stackroom and as a reading room until such time as new stacks are purchased.

DeKalb. Gustaf Dalstrom has painted a mural to be placed over the fireplace in the children's room of the Haish Memorial Library. The mural, seven by eighteen feet, depicts the most important events in American history.

Mr. Dalstrom is a well known Chicago artist and was awarded the Peterson prize for his entry in the Scandinavian-American Exhibit, Chicago, in

1929. He was commissioned to paint the mural by the Technical Committee of the Public Works of Art, a subsidiary of the CWA.

The library was also granted the services of two men to build book shelves.

DesPlaines. Funds provided by CWA enabled the library to employ a second assistant, Mrs. George Cook, former librarian, who is keeping the library open three additional days a week.

CWA workers constructed a new roof for the library, supplying new supports where needed, and rewired the building. Book shelves were made, and the fixtures and furniture repaired and refinished. The men also painted the interior of the building.

Dixon. Approval of four projects submitted by the directors of the library to the CWA office in Chicago made possible a number of improvements.

A total of $1,146 was expended for the labor of plasterers, painters and plumbers who renovated the interior of the building. An additional allotment of $1,134 for labor provided for the remodeling and decoration of a room as a museum.

The third project was the reconditioning of the Everett herbarium, containing more than one thousand specimens of plant life. A botanist revised the collection, steaming and covering each specimen in cellophane. The collection was then placed on display in the new museum room.

An appropriation of $891 was used for the employment of four persons to take inventory and to mend worn books.

Dwight. The rooms in the library have been redecorated and rearranged. All floors were sanded and refinished. Carpenters removed the stacks and made shelving to line the walls. The stack room is now an adult reading room and the former reading room will be used for juvenile patrons.

Edwardsville. Miriam McKennie Hofmeier was commissioned by the Public Works Art Project of the federal government to paint several murals for the library. The murals, which are done in oil on canvas, picture the leading industries of Madison County.

Evanston. Alterations to the main library authorized by the Illinois Federal Emergency Administration included the construction of a one-story addition, thus doubling the work-room space; the demolition of an old ventilating system to increase the space available for the extension department; and the flooring of the second floor section stacks.

Employing labor furnished by the CWA, the South Branch of the library was moved to larger quarters, with nearly double the former floor space. The wall between two stores was removed, and the rooms redecorated and equipped for library purposes.

Thirty-one persons, twenty-one CWA and ten CWS, all the latter being trained workers, were employed at the library from January through March; with a total payroll of more than $10,500.

The pamphlet collection of the library was enlarged and revised by one of the CWS librarians, making readily available information on current topics.

A union list of periodicals and newspapers in the seven libraries in Evanston has been made by CWS workers, and will be mimeographed for distribution to libraries in the metropolitan area.

A librarian skilled in work with public documents is coordinating the information on documents in the public and university libraries. The collections of sheet music have also been indexed.

Reading lists for the foreign born were compiled by librarians.

Two skilled typists have been preparing catalog cards for the branch libraries.

Forest Park. The library was redecorated by CWA workers.

Freeport. The library submitted a project under CWA calling for an expenditure of $1,028 in redecorating, repairing doors, weather stripping, drainage, flooring, plastering and painting the public library building. Of the 45 men to be employed, the library requested the services of 35 skilled laborers.

Galesburg. The compilation and restoration of historical material pertaining to Galesburg and to Knox County collected by the library during the past several years was accomplished by four persons under CWA. Five large scrap books of newspaper clippings, programs, photographs, giving a historical survey of Galesburg were completed and indexed. In addition two volumes of biographical sketches were prepared.

The newspaper files were arranged and mended where necessary.

Geneva. Plans for an addition to the library providing space for a children's room were submitted to the CWA for approval. The basement room could be utilized for meetings. The cost was estimated at $12,000, half of which was asked for labor. The board was considering two modes of raising the money—that of increasing the tax levy, and of voting a bond issue.

Gibson City. The Moyer library has requested the inclusion among the city's CWA projects of the redecoration of and minor repairs to its building.

Greenup. The Carnegie library was closed several weeks to permit the redecoration of the building.

Herrin. Tearing out the front wall of the library building, CWA carpenters enclosed the front porch and built a new entrance, thus increasing the space available for reading and shelving. The rooms were repapered, all woodwork repainted and the floor varnished. The library purchased congoleum rugs for the rooms. The exterior was also painted.

Highland Park. The library has been enabled, through the offer of the Federal Emergency Relief Agency to furnish the necessary labor, to finish a room on the second floor as a historical room. It was floored, the walls paneled, and the ceiling plastered. Due to lack of funds the room had been left undone at the time the building was erected. It is to be equipped with fireproof cabinets, display cases and book shelves as the library is able to purchase them. It is hoped that the library can add to its collection of local history, preserving fugitive material as well as books.

A meeting for the purpose of discussing the organization of a historical society is to be held at the library, with Jesse L. Smith, chairman of the historical committee of the library, presiding.

LaHarpe. Six men were employed in relaying the tile roof of the library as a CWA project. Both the exterior and the interior of the building were repainted and shelving and books cleaned. The project called for an expenditure of $300.

Lincoln. The allocation of six men and an overseer to the library by the local relief agency permitted the redecoration of the assembly room and periodical room on the ground floor. The basement was made damp proof.

Litchfield. An effort is being made to include a request from CWA for the services of three young women to serve as assistants to the librarian, enabling the preparation of a catalog of the books in the library. Approximately eight thousand volumes need to be cataloged.

Marion. As a local relief project the library was painted and the interior redecorated.

Mason City. The interior of the public library was repainted by local men employed under the CWA.

Mattoon. An allotment of $2,586.50 by the federal CWA to the Mattoon library, with the additional sum of $258.50 furnished for materials by the library, has made possible many needed improvements. The basement was remodeled and painted. The pipes for heating and plumbing were replaced with new ones, and the floor repaired with concrete. The exterior of the building was painted, and four decaying trees removed from the grounds.

In addition the services of five women were granted to the library. They repaired and cleaned books, and assisted in sorting and arranging back files of the newspapers and periodicals. One part of the renovated basement was fitted up as a periodical reference room.

Milford. The amount of $1,100 was granted by the Civil Works Administration to the library for improving its building. The walls of the main room were plastered, the woodwork refinished, and the room repainted.

A basement room, left uncompleted when the library was built, was finished, and is to serve as a club room or auditorium, seating about sixty people. Shelves were built around the walls of the basement to provide a place for the storage of back files of periodicals.

Moline. Four carpenters and thirteen laborers were assigned to the library by the CWA. They have plastered and painted the walls and repaired the furniture. The children's room was redecorated.

CWES granted the services of a readers' adviser to work with the adult education classes organized under the CWA and to conduct discussion groups in the library. Miss Mildred H. Johnson, a former member of the library staff, was chosen for the position.

Momence. Repairs needed for some time were made possible through labor furnished the library by the local relief agency. The library was redecorated and the heating plant improved. The small study room was equipped with new shades, linoleum rug and the necessary fixtures.

Morrison. An addition 28 by 30 feet has been built at the north end of the Odell library, at a cost of $3,528, a gift to the library. Labor was provided by the CWA.

An archway was built between the old and the new rooms, and a fireplace constructed in the north wall. The old windows were torn out, and larger ones installed, making the reading rooms much lighter. The walls and ceiling were repainted. Book shelves were built and stained and all the woodwork and furniture refinished in dark oak. The library purchased and had laid linoleum coverings for the floors in both the rooms. Shelves were also built in the basement, forming additional space for storage. The exterior of the building was coated with cement paint.

North Chicago. Carpenters laid new oak floors in the basement and in the librarian's office. Several minor repairs were also made to the building, and it was redecorated. The material was purchased by the library, and the labor furnished by the CWA.

Olney. The services of plasterers and painters were employed in repairing the public library under the auspices of the CWA.

Onarga. Cleaning and mending of the books in the library and the redecorating of the building was carried on as a work relief project.

Ottawa. The city engineer submitted to CWA officials for approval a project covering repairs to a number of municipal buildings. Included was an item for the repainting of Reddick's library.

Park Ridge. The basement, remodeled and decorated, has been converted into a children's room by CWA workers. They also constructed shelves for the juvenile books. The adult department was thus enlarged, relieving the crowded condition of the shelves and reading room. The walls were painted and the furniture refinished. Men also painted the exterior of the building.

Peoria. The civil works program outlined by the board of trustees of the library included the remodeling of the business room, replacement of worn stair treads, repairing of termite damage to woodwork, new window sills, destruction of an unused brick smokestack, and additional lighting equipment for the stackroom. The board also requested the cleaning and retouching by an artist of the fourteen murals.

The first project completed was that of cleaning and painting the walls, woodwork and book shelves.

Princeville. Two women were assigned to the library by the CWA to clean and mend books, and to assist the librarian in clerical work.

Prophetstown. The library board has applied to the CWA for men to clean the walls and to paint the basement door.

Putnam County. Miss Harriet Lane was appointed as a resident librarian for the demonstration county library by the CWA. She kept in close contact with the eight branches, talking before the various community organizations and visiting all the rural schools in the county. Miss Lane was at one time the librarian of the Freeport library and until a short time ago was in charge of the library at the Great Lakes Naval Training Station.

Quincy. Six women were given work by the CWA, cleaning and rearranging the books in the library. They also replaced all written catalog cards with typed ones, mounted maps and pictures and took inventory. The clerical workers and the CWA librarian were employed for eight weeks.

Rock Island. Local painters employed under CWA painted both the interior and the exterior of the building at a cost of $3,374.50. Of this amount the library contributed about $250 for materials.

A new lighting arrangement was adopted for the main reading room and window shades purchased.

St. Charles. The basement of the library is being converted into a children's room as one of the local CWA projects. The room is paneled in pine, and the shelves and tables made by carpenters. A separate entrance was cut for the room so that it is unnecessary for the children to pass through the adult reading rooms.

Savanna. All the rooms in the library were repainted by a crew of five men. The entrance floor and stairs were sanded and revarnished. Cost of the labor, furnished by CWA, totaled $330, and the library spent $60 for the paint and varnish.

Sheldon. The building and books in the library were thoroughly cleaned, and the interior decorated as a CWA project.

Sterling. An inventory of the book collection was taken at the library by the librarian and her assistants, aided by three CWA women helpers. Only a small percentage of books was discovered missing, although the inventory was the first made in some twenty years.

Tuscola. Application to CWA headquarters was made through the local supervisor for $333.75 to be used for the employment of labor to paint the interior of the public library, the material being furnished by the library.

Washington County. Katherine Buhrman of Nashville was appointed readers' adviser to work with unemployed young people throughout the county. She advised them about their reading, stressing books of a vocational nature with the purpose of preparing them for future employment. Inasmuch as there was only a small library in the district, the books were loaned by the Library Extension Division.

Waukegan. The CWA accepted the program of the public library, asking for improvements costing approximately $3,500. The electric wiring system was revamped, tuck pointing done, and concrete flooring laid in the basement. The plastering of the walls and the painting concluded the work.

Western Springs. Seven workers were allocated to the library by the CWA. The women cleaned and mended books, and the three men painted the basement.

The inclusion of a typist permitted the typing of the registration cards and similar work.

CWES PROJECTS

Service to the unemployed in providing opportunities for self improvement was recognized as a valid function of the federal relief program. The Civil Works Education Service was set up to grant aid to communities for such service. All projects had to be submitted by the local agency for approval to the Department of Public Instruction of the state, of which Francis G. Blair is superintendent. Under the CWES provision was made for the formation of classes for the unemployed with unemployed teachers in charge.

The public libraries have cooperated in providing the books or supplementary material necessary for the courses as outlined, and in permitting their rooms to be used as quarters for the classes.

The Evanston Advisory Council on Adult Education, of which the public library is a member, submitted a comprehensive program the last of November to the FERA. Seven projects were outlined, requiring a personnel of ninety-nine assistants. They included a counseling and adjustment service to assist individuals to find themselves under present social conditions; a general education program of citizenship and elementary school subjects for the foreign born, adult education of a high school grade, and vocational and business subjects in so far as equipment would permit; homemaking and health education; leisure time activities; and two studies of social problems in Evanston—the negro and the youth of the city.

The Evanston library planned a program of library service to coordinate book work with each of the education and the leisure time activities projects. These included specialized reading guidance to individuals and preparation of reading lists for discussion groups and study clubs. The library also requested the services of two library visitors and four clerical assistants to send books to each activity center and to issue those books for home use. The library visitor was to work in conjunction with community health nurses and school visitors to reach shut-ins and handicapped persons in need of direct library service. The Evanston library agreed to permit its stock of books to be used in the projects and to purchase other volumes needed in so far as its funds would permit. The resources of the main library and its branches were made available to all workers and to the individuals enrolling for any of the activities.

Eleven projects were suggested by the Adult Education Council of Chicago. The first project was an adjustment service, based on case histories and tests, in order to aid the individuals to select helpful courses. Both a general education of high school and college grade as well as the teaching of elementary subjects to foreigners were outlined. In addition vocational and leisure time activities were taught. Nursery schools were established to give the pre-school child the right start in life. The people selected to supervise and teach the work outlines were experienced and contributed much to the program. The public library with its branches cooperated in providing books and space for class rooms.

Nursery schools were established in many of the counties of the state with former teachers in charge and supervised by the county superintendents. Books for the pre-school age were furnished by local libraries, and where there were no libraries in the community to take care of the demand, the Library Extension Division furnished the books.

In Rochelle, the library furnished both the room in which to hold the local classes sponsored by the CWES, and the supplementary books for study.

The Junior Chamber of Commerce of Aurora is sponsoring a free technical high school, all the teachers donating their services, and the East Junior High School, its classrooms. The public library donated many books on technical subjects and also supplied supplementary material needed by the students. Interested individuals are donating textbooks. Some two hundred have enrolled for the work.

Recognition of the unusually successful adult education program as carried on by the Peoria Public Library was given by the American Association for Adult Education in its recently published *Handbook of Adult Education in the United States.*

MEMBERS ILLINOIS LIBRARY ASSOCIATION

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Bookshop Bindery, Chicago.
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*Bough, Helen, child ln. Legler Reg. Br., P. L., Chicago.
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Bower, Dorothy F., asst. P. L., Peoria.
Bowman, Mrs. Earl, ln. Greig Memorial L., Oneida.
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Brandt, Etta, ln. Carnegie P. L., Carmi.
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ABBREVIATIONS

•	life member
asso.	associate
asst.	assistant
bd.	board
br.	branch
catlgr.	cataloger
child.	children's
circ.	circulation
dept.	department
div.	division
E.	east; eastern
ed.	editor
ext.	extension
gen.	general
H. S.	high school
Ill.	Illinois
inst.	institute
jr.	junior
L.	library
ln.	librarian
mem.	memorial
mgr.	manager
N.	north; northern
period	periodical
pres.	president
prof.	professor
P.	public
ref.	reference
S.	south; southern
sc.	school
sec.	secretary
sr.	senior
supt.	superintendent
univ.	university
v. pres.	vice president
W.	west; western

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